



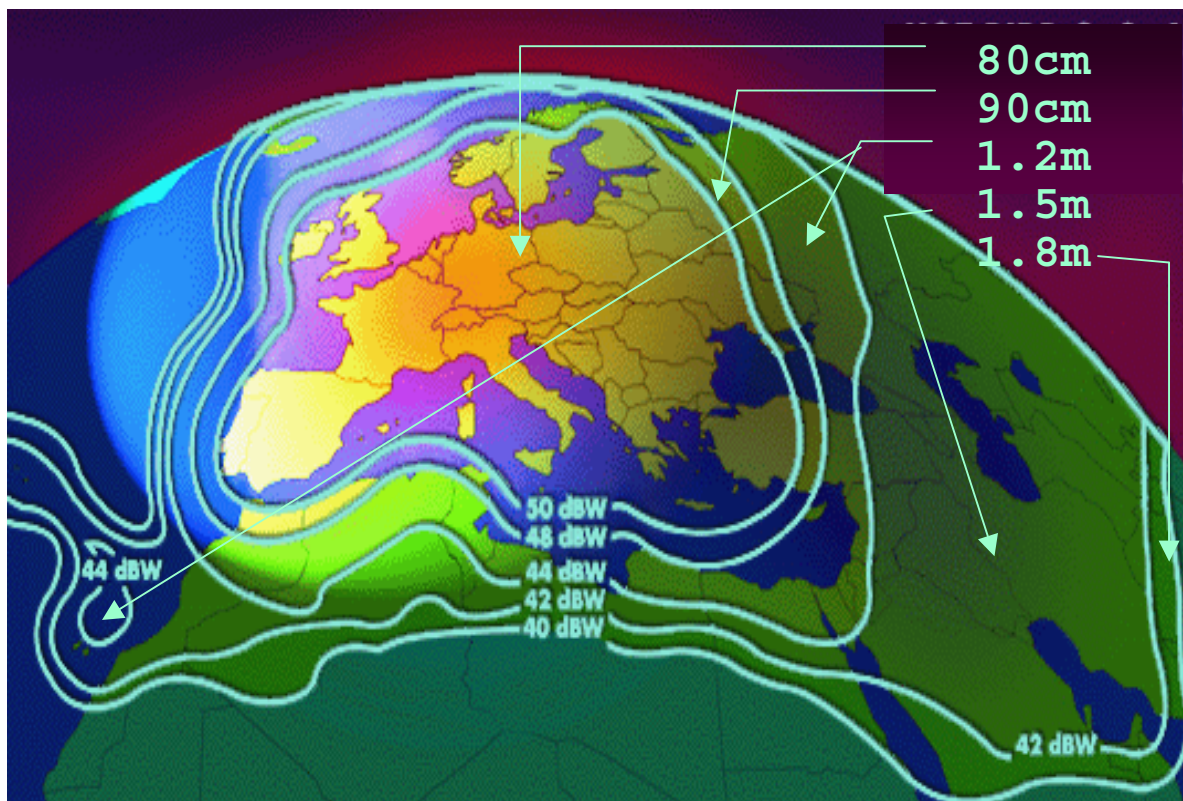
FACT SHEET

AFRTS DIRECT-TO-HOME (Europe) SERVICE

Since December of 1998, the European Command (EUCOM), the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), the Naval Exchange Command (NEXCOM), and AFRTS have jointly sponsored a satellite direct-to-home (DTH) service for servicemembers, DoD civilian employees and their family members living off-base in the EUCOM area of operation (minus Central and Southern Africa).

Using a powerful European Telecommunications Satellite (EUTELSAT) Hotbird signal, AFRTS delivers seven television services, a program guide, and eleven radio services that are received in the European area with an 80-centimeter satellite dish and an integrated receiver/decoder (IRD). Both the dish and the IRD are available through most European AAFES and NEXCOM stores. The IRD can be either leased or purchased.

At the beginning of the DTH program, EUCOM estimated that there were approximately 50,000 households living off base in their theater of operation, and almost all of these households were able to receive either just one over-the-air AFRTS television service or no service at all. As of March 2004, over 25,000 IRDs have been leased or purchased through the European AAFES and NEXCOM stores.



For more information, please see <http://www.afrts.osd.mil>

